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TO : The Project Review Committee
FROM : Assistant Director for Communications
SUBJECT: Voice Secrecy System

Date: 13 May 1952

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I. PROBLEM

Funds increase for Research and Development study for determination of the feasibility of a privacy system for use on ordinary telephones.

II. ASSUMPTION

It is of the utmost importance that feasibility of a Voice Secrecy System be established and, in the event that such a system can be developed, to have available for consideration estimated production costs of adequate equipment.

III. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

1. Over a long span of years, considerable time and money has been expended by both military and civilian organizations in an effort to develop an absolutely secure voice secrecy system. At present there are two possible new approaches to this solution that have not been fully explored.

2. Funds in the amount of \$120,000 were approved for the subject program in the Office of Communications FY-1952 Budget. This amount is sufficient only for a single technical approach to the problem.

3. An alternative approach in solution of the problem can be accomplished by the expenditure of an additional \$80,000.

4. The above two research programs will not duplicate each other nor will they duplicate any programs that have been, or are being undertaken by any other commercial or military organizations.

5. The DCI has directed that efforts be exerted to provide a system which will permit secure communications of highly classified information over ordinary telephones.

6. Fiscal Year 1952 funds in the amount of \$80,000 are available in the Office of Communications Allotment 9095-07. The availability of these funds is a result of costs lower than estimates in several other Research and Development Programs.

IV. DISCUSSION

Based on the above assumption, it appears desirable that all reasonable means to the solution of the problem should be pursued simultaneously in view of the benefits to be gained. Tentative time schedules indicate that it will require from 6 to 18 months for the analysis of each approach. The delay in making two research studies consecutively is quite obvious.

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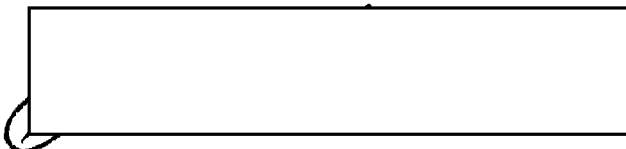
V. CONCLUSION

The advantages in time and the determination, through parallel study, that an adequate system is possible, indicates that the dual plan be pursued.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that approval be granted for the expenditure of an additional \$80,000 of Office of Communications FY-1952 funds for the research and analyzation of the Voice Secrecy System.

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